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LITERATURE CURRICULUM IV--TEST FOR "THE ODYSSEY."

BY- KITZHABER, ALBERT R.
OREGON UNIV., EUGENE

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OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER

LITERATURE CURRICULUM IV:

Test for THE ODYSSEY

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TE 000 248

OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER

Literature Curriculum IV

TEST: The Odyssey

NOTE: Students are permitted to use their text during this test.

Instructions to students:

Answers to the questions are to be recorded on the separate answer sheets provided. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE ONLY SIDE A OF THE ANSWER SHEET, THE SIDE THAT HAS ROOM FOR 5 CHOICES.

Use a soft lead pencil (#2 or softer) and completely fill the space between the lines for the response you choose as the correct answer. Your score on this test will be the number of correct answers you mark. There is only one best answer for each item.

Sample test item: Who is the chief executive of the United States Government?
(1) The President
(2) The Secretary of State
(3) The Secretary of Defense
(4) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Since the correct answer is 1, the answer sheet is marked like this:

Sample test item: 1 2 3 4 5

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1. Epic poets often use the device of beginning in medias res, which means in the middle of things. In what way does Homer follow this practice?
   (1) He begins his story at the end and uses flashbacks to tell what happened before.
   (2) He begins his story at the beginning and traces the wanderings of Odysseus throughout the then-known world.
   (3) He begins the story in the middle and uses flashbacks to tell what happened before.
   (4) He begins his story in Ithaca and ends his story in the same place.

2. Why might we call the episode with the Cyclops the key episode to the wanderings of Odysseus?
   (1) Because the Cyclops was a god and had power over Odysseus.
   (2) Because the father of the Cyclops was Poseidon to whom he prayed that Odysseus might never return to Ithaca.
   (3) Because the Cyclops turned Odysseus' men into swine and kept him from home.
   (4) Because the Cyclops was the son of Zeus to whom he prayed for Odysseus' destruction.

3. What are three features of a folk or primary epic?
   (1) The setting is huge; the characters are heroic; the story grows out of a long oral tradition.
   (2) The characters are heroic; the gods intervene; the epic is the product of one man.
   (3) The epic is episodic in rm; the narrative is related orally; the story is the iting of one man.
   (4) The characters are helped by the gods; the tale is always sung; the style is simple.

4. What do we learn from The Odyssey about the institutions, manners, and values of the pre-Christian Greeks?
   (1) That they had many gods; they were uncharitable and greedy; they lacked honor.
   (2) The Greeks lived with the gods; they had bad manners; they honored those who could fight.
   (3) The Greeks had a feudal society with small independent kingdoms; hospitality to guests was essential; honor and reknown were eagerly sought.
   (4) The Greeks were primitive; they loved hunting and warfare; they were immoral.

5. Why is the "omniscient narrator" used in The Odyssey?
   (1) Because by seeing everything and telling us what each person or each god thinks he can unify a long and complex story.
   (2) Because by seeing only what is in the minds of the gods he can foreshadow events for us.
   (3) Because by speaking for Odysseus he can control our attitude toward him.
   (4) Because by telling us only what the mortals think he can make the story much more easy to believe.

6. The Odyssey was originally sung. Why do you think several bits of verses were repeated again and again?
   (1) To give the bard a chance to think about the rest of the narrative.
   (2) The repetition is an epic convention, like the refrain. It was used in all oral poetry.
   (3) The repetition was used simply because of the sound.
   (4) To emphasize the importance of those lines in case the audience had forgotten them during the long narrative.

7. Why are the first four books called The Telemachy?
   (1) Because they are chiefly concerned with Telemachus's adventures in search of news of his father.
   (2) Because Telemachus is a frame character and these four books are the frame of the entire Odyssey.
   (3) Because these books introduce us to Telemachy who is the hero of the Odyssey.
   (4) Because Telemachy means "flashback" and these books are flashbacks concerned with life at Ithaca.

8. When the story begins all the survivors of the Trojan War have safely reached their homes, with the exception of Odysseus and his men. Where is Odysseus?
   (1) He is being detained by Calypso who hopes to make him her husband.
   (2) He is in sandy Pylos with Nestor.
   (3) He is with Nausicaa.
   (4) He is in the land of the Lotus Eaters.

9. Why was Hermes sent to Ogygia?
   (1) to persuade Circe to free the men from her spell.
   (2) to help Odysseus against the Laestrygonians.
   (3) to find out from Menelaus the whereabouts of Odysseus.
   (4) to persuade Calypso to free Odysseus.

10. In what way did Athena first intervene to help Odysseus?
   (1) She disguised herself as Mentes and instructed Telemachus to seek the whereabouts of Odysseus.
   (2) She formed a thick mist about Odysseus and hid him from sight so that he could enter the city of the palace of Alcinous
   (3) She gave him the strength to resist the spell of Circe.
   (4) She freed him from Calypso.

11. What do Antinous and Eurymachus have in common?
   (1) They are both gods who dislike Odysseus.
   (2) They are both suitors who wish to marry Penelope.
   (3) They are both servants who are faithful to Odysseus.
   (4) They are both half gods and half humans.

12. The word protean means able to assume various shapes. To what in The Odyssey does this word apply?
    (1) Proteus was the old man of the sea who assumed various forms.
    (2) Proteus was the sea nymph who changed Odysseus into a god.
    (3) Proteus was the younger brother of Zeus, god of sea and earthquakes.
    (4) Proteus was a monster who changed himself into a beautiful maiden.

13. Early in The Odyssey two major heroes of the Trojan War praise Odysseus. Who are they?
    (1) Nestor and Agamemnon.
    (2) Nestor and Menelaus.
    (3) Menelaus and Agamemnon.
    (4) Agamemnon and Diomedes.

14. What are some of the Greek religious performances portrayed in The Odyssey?
    (1) Praise of the gods, animal sacrifice, fasting.
    (2) Prayer, libation, animal sacrifice, feasting.
    (3) Visiting the dead, fasting, animal sacrifice.
    (4) Traveling, prayer, libation, fasting.

15. What is the Clytemnestra-Aegisthus-Orestes story about?
    (1) Clytemnestra, Aegisthus, and Orestes try to win the hand of Penelope.
    (2) Clytemnestra and her lover, Aegisthus, slew Agamemnon. His son, Orestes, avenged his death.
    (3) Clytemnestra caused the Trojan War, and left her husband, Aegisthus, for Orestes.
    (4) The marriage feasts of Clytemnestra, Aegisthus, and Orestes, the children of Menelaus, are being celebrated.

16. How did Penelope trick the men who wanted to marry her?
    (1) She told them that she'd marry one of them as soon as she finished knitting a shawl. She unraveled her knitting at night.
    (2) She told them that who ever could string Odysseus' bow would be her husband. She made sure that the bow was impossible to string.
    (3) She promised that she'd marry the suitor whom Argos greeted. She knew Argos was dead.
    (4) She promised that she'd marry one of them when Telemachus was of age. She kept pretending Telemachus had not come of age.

17. Why didn't Polyphemus' fellow Cyclops help him when he was in distress?
    (1) Because they had been drinking wine and did not hear his cries.
    (2) Because they were on the other side of the cave and could not get to him.
    (3) Because when they asked Polyphemus who was hurting him, he answered, "No Body."
    (4) Because Polyphemus was unable to call out to let them know he was in trouble.

18. Why might the reader suspect that the crime which had been committed against Agamemnon might also be committed against Odysseus?
    (1) Because the story of Agamemnon is repeated again and again as though as a warning to Odysseus.
    (2) Because the same circumstances prevail in Ithaca as did in Mycenae.
    (3) Because Odysseus' journeys are parallel to Agamemnon's.
    (4) Because the reader knows the suitors were planning to kill Odysseus.

19. What is the relationship between Odysseus and Laertes?
    (1) Odysseus is the son of Laertes.
    (2) Laertes is the servant of Odysseus.
    (3) Laertes is the dog who greets Odysseus on his return.
    (4) Laertes is the father of Penelope.

20. What was the name of the herb or magic formula the gods gave Odysseus to protect him from Circe?
    (1) Moly
    (2) Lotus
    (3) Charybdis.
    (4) Medusa

21. What is the derivation of the word "tantalize"?
    (1) Tantalus was the son of Gaia who was devoured by vultures.
    (2) "Tantalize" comes from the Greek Tantalus, who, standing in a lake, was always thirsty because each time he tried to drink the water receded.
    (3) Tantalus was the man who tried to heave a stone up the hill; but just as he was about to topple it over the crest, it rolled back.
    (4) Tantalus was the son of Arete. Arete dipped him in the River Styx, but held him by the heel, which was then vulnerable.

22. How did Odysseus and his men escape from the fate usually inflicted by the Sirens?
    (1) He plugged the ears of his men and lashed himself to the mast.
    (2) He drugged himself and his men so that they couldn't hear the song of the Sirens.
    (3) He lashed himself and his men to the mast.
    (4) He went a different route to escape the Sirens.

23. Why did Odysseus want to avoid Charybdis?
    (1) Because Charybdis was a dreadful monster with six heads, who devoured passing seamen.
    (2) Because Charybdis was a fierce whirlpool that might destroy the ship.
    (3) Because Charybdis was a goddess who had turned men into swine.
    (4) Because Charybdis was the son of Poisedon who wanted to destroy Odysseus.

24. Why was Iros, the beggar whose jaw was broken by Odysseus, called Iros?
    (1) Because he went on errands for anyone who asked him.
    (2) Because his mother was Iris, the gods' messenger.
    (3) Because he was a beggar and the word means beggar.
    (4) Because Iros means angry and Iros was always angry.

25. How did Eurycleia recognize Odysseus on his return to Ithaca?
    (1) By the scar on his body. which had been inflicted by a boar.
    (2) By the scar on his body. which had been inflicted by a javelin.
    (3) By the scar on his arm. which had been inflicted by Scylla.
    (4) By the scar on his arm which had been inflicted by Cyclops.

26. How did Odysseus get rid of the suitors in his house?
    (1) He had the gods turn them into swine.
    (2) He had them hanged.
    (3) He shipped them off to the Cyclops.
    (4) He killed them with arrows and spears.

27. What was the trap Penelope set for Odysseus to make sure of his indentity?
    (1) She asked the nurse to bathe him in order to see whether or not his body was scarred.
    (2) She asked him to string the bow, a feat that only her husband could do.
    (3) She told the nurse to move the bed he had made outside the bedroom.
    (4) She asked him a riddle that only Odysseus could answer.

28. What does "antedeluvian wisdom" mean?
    (1) Old-fashioned ideas.
    (2) Flooding the market with knowledge.
    (3) Knowledge coming before the flood.
    (4) Intelligence, coming before delusion.

29. What prompted Odysseus to reveal his identity to the Phaecians?
    (1) The blind bard's songs about the Trojan War.
    (2) The blind bard's song about Penelope.
    (3) The blind bard's song about Ares and Aphrodite.
    (4) The blind bard's songs about Demodicus.

30. What is one trait in the character of Odysseus that causes his ordeals to be intensefied?
    (1) Pride.
    (2) Courage.
    (3) Wisdom.
    (4) Inventiveness.

31. Who was keeper of the winds?
    (1) Athene.
    (2) Aeolus
    (3) Calypso.
    (4) Circe.

32. Which of the following best describes the author's treatment of the morals of the characters in the story?
    (1) He judges the action in terms of the moral code and severely denounces immoral acts.
    (2) He accounts for all the misfortunes of man as punishment by the gods for their evil doings.
    (3) He simply tells the story as an epic in Greek history and permits the reader to make his own interpretation.
    (4) The author treats as the will of the gods acts which we might today consider immoral.

33. Which of the following group of characteristics does the author believe are the reasons for Odysseus' triumph over opposing forces.
    (1) Lust for power and faithfulness to his family.
    (2) Prudence, adherence to religious customs, and courage.
    (3) Disregard for danger to himself, wisdom, independence from everyone and everything.
    (4) Gentleness, practice of good manners, desire for wealth and power.

34. Why did all of the suitors seek Penelope's hand in marriage?
    (1) Because of her youthful beauty.
    (2) Because of her wisdom.
    (3) Because she had been the wife of the king.
    (4) Because of the wealth it would mean.

35. Many of the misfortunes Odysseus experiences in returning from Troy resulted from human traits still evident in man today. What traits caused the return of the ship to Aeolia when it had been within sight of Ithaca?
    (1) Stupidity.
    (2) Curiosity
    (3) Jealousy
    (4) Greed